

Weekly Letter From Washington, D. C.

BY CONGRESSMAN HARRIS ELLSWORTH

Washington, D. C., December 11, 1943—The mild influenza epidemic that has hit Washington is heavier in point of numbers involved than the tragic 1918 flu contagion. (90,000 cases reported.) Several schools are closed and numerous government offices are almost out of business. I have heard of no deaths directly traceable to the current wave of infection. Bad colds or mild flu cases lasting but a few days with apparently no serious after effects seem to be the extent of it. All of my own office help came down but fortunately only after I had spent most of last week in bed and was about again. The office has been kept open but not, as you might guess, at its highest efficiency.

A couple of weeks ago a new book closely imitating the external appearance, including type, ink and colors, of Wendell Willkie's book "One World," but bearing the title "One Man—Wendell Willkie," made its appearance here. I bought a copy and read it. It is apparently supposed to smear Willkie so badly that he will not be nominated by the Republican convention. Many Republican Congressmen are opposed to Willkie, and so greeted this book with great glee. One Washington by-product of the flurry caused by the book was a speaking invitation extended by the member in charge of this week's 78 Club program to C. Nelson Sparks, former Mayor of Akron, Ohio, and author of the book. The 78 club is an organization of the Republican freshmen members of the House and each member of the club has charge of one program during the year and may select his speaker. Sparks apparently wanted to get some publicity for his publishing venture. Our programs being off the record, the publicity value was nil. The Sparks speaking date was canceled.

The fact that many of the regular Republicans here are openly battling against Willkie does not spell doom for his chances of being nominated, but it does forecast formidable opposition. Right now Tom Dewey seems to be the leading field.

The strange thing about Dewey's "candidacy" is that he is not a candidate. It will be recalled that in order

to get solid Republican organization support for his race to be Governor of New York, Dewey foreswore any further interest in the presidency during his term as governor. The binding of this promise was eased a little when New York recently elected a Republican Lieutenant-Governor, but for all practical purposes it still stands. Dewey is not a candidate.

However, if the Republican convention were to nominate Dewey without any personal activity on his part, no one—not even a hardened New York politician—could reasonably deny his right to accept it. So on that basis, Dewey may still be considered a candidate.

The Bricker boom has not started yet. But it is coming. They are endeavoring to give it exactly the proper timing.

So much for high political gossip. Meanwhile the Congress is getting jammed up again near adjournment time. All legislative bodies seem to do that. The majority leader announced today that this season would likely continue on until after Christmas. That may prove to be absolutely necessary. It is reported, however, that McCormick, the majority leader, is nettled at the activities of the Republican Committee for Action group (dubbed the "commandos") and plans to let the session run unnecessarily long. However, the Democrats are just as anxious to go home for the Christmas holidays as the Republicans are.

The four days of debate in the Senate on the soldier vote bill had some terrific repercussions. Democratic senators divided sharply and bitterly on the issue. Early this week they had a bitter verbal set-to on the Senate floor with threats of an outright breakup—the Southern senators threatening to pull away from the present Democratic party and make a third party of their own.

Yesterday Speaker Sam Rayburn took the House floor to plea for national unity. It was generally assumed "on the hill," however, that what he was doing was indirectly asking Democrat members of the House to pull together and not break out against one another as they did in the Senate.

It would have been laughable, but day—well, that's a different story.

Fairview News

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Noah, of Lakeside, former residents of this valley, received a letter from their son, Bill, in the U. S. Navy that he had landed on an island in the South Pacific. Bill and Elmer Goodwin were crossing on the same ship and probably are still together. The island where they are is the same island on which Raymond Norris is land based.

Fairview Grange Home Extension club met Wednesday, December 8, at the hall. A lovely potluck dinner was held at noon. It was decided at this meeting to have a gift exchange at the next meeting of the Grange, Christmas night, December 25. Each person present is to bring a gift for exchange. Those present Wednesday were Mesdames G. R. Norris, Chas. Holverstott, Harry Lindsay, Chas. Geitner, Glen Richardson and Cortland Ellis.

The officers of the mothers' school lunch club met last week-end and decided to start serving hot lunches Monday, December 20.

Mrs. W. J. Wheeler, Mrs. T. H. Benham and Karen were in Marshfield Saturday on business. They also visited Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bernhart, of Glasgow, friends of the Benhams.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Noah and Bonnie Ellen were Sunday visitors from Lakeside. They plan on moving back here at Christmas time.

Mrs. L. A. Ryan spent Friday night in Coquille with her daughter, Mrs. Earl Adams, Jr., the former Marge Ryan.

Faye Holverstott called at the Glen Richardson home on business Sunday evening.

Mrs. George Stevenson, of Coquille, visited her daughter, Mrs. Chas. Geitner, and Mrs. L. A. Ryan Sunday. The Stevensons are former residents of Fairview.

Bill Berry, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Berry, is home on a seven-day furlough from Camp Roberts in California. He is to report at Camp Meade, North Carolina, after his furlough is up here. The Berrys have two other sons in the service.

Grange met last Saturday night for its regular meeting, with Mrs. Albert Thommen as hostess, serving sandwiches, doughnuts and coffee.

Harold Norris has been transferred from Thunderbird Field at Phoenix, Arizona, to the airfield at Lemoore, California. He has passed all tests so far and is training to be a pilot. He states Lemoore Field is the busiest place he has been so far and all

instructors are commissioned officers. Wm. Byerly is still quite ill with a severe case of bronchitis. His sister, Mrs. Clara Kibler, is considerably improved.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holverstott visited Mr. and Mrs. John Sinclair while in the Umpqua valley. Mr. Sinclair has had a stroke and is unable to do very much. They are living on the old Holverstott ranch.

Word has been received that Mrs. Earl Steen, formerly of Fairview, but now living at Sweet Home, has developed asthma and is considering coming back to Coquille for treatment.

Arago News Items

Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish.

Ladies Aid met Wednesday all day at the home of Mrs. Ward Evans, with a pot luck dinner at noon. The following ladies were present: Mesdames Albert Lillie, Albert Gulstrom, O. H. Aasen, Clarence Butler, Charles Griffith and Mary Anne, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans and Maureen. In the afternoon a short meeting of the Missionary Society was held with Mrs. Adrian Halter and Mrs. C. A. Keltner in charge. The following ladies joined the group for the afternoon meeting: Mesdames Robert Fish and Gene, Tyrrell Woodward, Wayne Woodward, Lawrence Barklow, Roy Martin and Ronald, S. C. McAllister and J. L. Burtis.

The annual Ladies Aid Bazaar was held at the Arago store last Thursday with Mesdames Tyrrell Woodward, S. C. McAllister, Wayne Woodward, Adrian Halter and Miss Glenda Lillie in charge of the selling of the articles.

J. D. Carl and Herbert, and Ward Evans drove to Marshfield on business last Monday.

Herman Sumerlin has been plowing with his tractor for Wm. Knabe up on Fishtrap the past week.

Mrs. Ward Evans, Pamela and Maureen, drove to Myrtle Point last Saturday and while there they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Willson. Miss Chloe Willson came home with them and spent the night.

Miss Glenda Lillie was a Thursday evening dinner guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans.

J. L. Burtis is improving and is able to sit up a little now.

Rev. M. M. Stearn of the Brethren church in Myrtle Point, conducted the regular Sunday morning church service. Sunday school followed with an attendance of 32. There will be services again next Sunday, preaching at 10 a. m. and the Christmas program will be given at the

regular Sunday school hour. There will be the usual treats for the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Ike Miller and sons of Bandon, were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Zeller.

Glen Zeller and Robert Fish came in from Scottsburg Saturday evening and spent the night at their homes in Arago.

Choir practice was held Thursday evening at the home of Mrs. O. H. Aasen with the following attendance: Mesdames Albert Lillie and Glenda, Albert Gulstrom and Darwin, Ward Evans and Pamela and Maureen, Stanley Halter, Werner Plaep, S. C. McAllister and O. H. Aasen. They will meet again this Friday at 8 p. m. at the O. H. Aasen home.

Mrs. Stanley Halter and Mrs. Ida Myers drove to Marshfield Monday on business.

Mrs. Chester Willson, of Myrtle Point, and Miss Glenda Lillie were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Evans. Miss Chloe Willson returned home with her mother after spending the night at the Evans home.

Pamela Evans was a Sunday night guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lillie.

J. D. Carl attended the Rotary club dinner in Myrtle Point last Thursday noon. Mrs. Carl visited at the home of her sister, Mrs. A. H. Bender, while Mr. Carl was at the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Nile Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Fish attended the Assembly of God church in Coquille last Sunday evening.

Wayne Woodward, Lawrence Bark-

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low and Roy Martin came in from Powers Saturday evening and spent the week end at their homes in Arago.

The regular monthly school board meeting was held Monday evening at the school house, with the chairman, Mrs. Albert Lillie in charge.

Mr. and Mrs. Farm Patrick and family visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Patrick last week.

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